

Application No.: 09/588,617

Docket No.: 21806-00083-US

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 11-15, 21, 23-26, and 28-31 have been elected for continued prosecution, and claims 8-10, 16-20, 22, 27, and 32 have been withdrawn as being directed to the non-elected species.

In response to the election of species requirement, applicant hereby elects, without traverse, the species covered by Figure 1A, i.e., claims 1-7, 11-15, 21, 23-26, and 28-31. Claims 1-5, 13-15, and 30-31 are submitted as being generic.

Applicant's election is made without prejudice. Applicants point out, however, that claims 1-32 have been previously examined on the merits at least twice, resulting in two Official Actions prior to this Election Requirement.

As noted by the Examiner, upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to rejoinder of withdrawn species claims in addition to allowance of the elected species, provided that all claims to each additional species are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.146.

An action on the merits of all the claims and a Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 09-0456, under Order No. 21806-00083-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

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